

admirable system you have established."
 — "That proves nothing; for two or three, good ideas do not constitute a good system. Be that as it may, I say again, I will never allow your mother to return to Paris." — "But, Sire, if sacred interests should absolutely require her presence there for a few

days would not " — "How! Sacred interests! What do

you mean?" — "Yes, Sire, if you do not allow her to return I shall be obliged to go there, unaided by her advice, in order to recover from your Majesty's Government the payment of a sacred debt." — "Ah! bah! Sacred! Are not all the debts of the State sacred?" — "Doubtless, Sire; but ours is attended with circumstances which give it a peculiar character."

—"A peculiar character! Nonsense!

Does not every State creditor say the same of his debt?

Besides, I know nothing of your claim. It does not concern me, and I will not meddle

with it. If you have the law on your side so much the better •

but if you want favor I tell you I will not interfere. If I did,

I should be rather against you than otherwise." — "Sire, my

brother and myself had intended to settle in France, but how

can we live in a country where our mother cannot visit us?"

—"I do not care for that. I do not advise you to come here.

Go to England. The English like wrangling politicians. Go

there, for in France, I tell you candidly, that I should be

rather against you than for you."

"After this conversation," added Duroc, "the Emperor got into the carriage with me without stopping to look to the other petitions which had been presented to him. He preserved unbroken silence until he got nearly opposite the cascade, on the left of the road, a few leagues from Chambery. He appeared to be absorbed in reflection. At length he said, 'I confess I have been somewhat too harsh with this young man. . . . But no matter, it will prevent others from troubling me. Those people calumniate everything I do. They do not understand me, Duroc; their place

is not in France. How can Keeker's family be for the Bourbons, whose first duty, if ever they returned to France, would be to hang them all ? ' " ' 1

¹ After all the outcry which has been raised about the tyrannical conduct of Napoleon towards Madame de Stael, there is some point in his question as